



# POLLUTION PREVENTION & THE BOTTOM LINE

JANUARY 1998

WORDS & WISDOM FROM THE NEW ENGLAND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE TEAM

## LANDMARK AGREEMENT REACHED WITH METAL FINISHING INDUSTRY

U.S. EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner visited a metal finishing facility in Providence, R.I. on October 27 to announce a landmark environmental agreement with the metal finishing industry. The agreement is the first reached by industry, community and government leaders under the Agency's Common Sense Initiative (CSI). Browner was joined by U.S. Senators John Chafee and Jack Reed, and U.S. Representatives Patrick Kennedy and Robert Weygand at the Victory Finishing Technologies, Inc. plant in South Providence.

Under the agreement, known as the Metal Finishing Strategic Goals Program, metal finishers are committing to substantially reduce pollution beyond what is required by environmental laws nationally. The industry has agreed to several goals, including:

- ensuring an 80 percent participation rate by companies within the industry;
- cutting chemical releases, such as volatile organic compounds, by about three-fourths compared to 1992 levels -- from more than 8,000 tons to 2,200 tons to air and from about 250 tons to 70 tons for water;

- reducing metal releases, such as copper, by about 40 percent -- from 60 tons to 36 tons for air and from 173 tons to 104 tons for water;
- cutting hazardous sludge, now disposed in the land, by about 40 percent -- from 500,000 tons to less than 300,000 tons a year; and,
- cutting energy and water use at participating firms by 50 and 25 percent, respectively.

Under the agreement, EPA will provide top-performing metal finishing facilities with more flexibility within the current regulatory system. State and local governments will provide compliance and pollution prevention assistance, particularly in meeting wastewater pretreatment requirements under the Clean Water Act. Industry trade associations will promote the program and encourage participation among their members while environmental and public interest groups have pledged to publicly recognize participating firms for their environmental performance.

Members of the metal finishing industry along with federal, state and local government officials, environmentalists and community leaders

have been working together for three years to find solutions that work for the industry and for the environment.

CSI is a fundamentally different approach to environmental protection. In contrast to the traditional system, which controls pollution to air, water, and land separately, and which typically results in one-size-fits-all regulations on all sources, CSI uses a consensus approach to engage multiple stakeholders in looking at all aspects of an industry's performance. This approach leads to more flexible, cost-effective and environmentally-protective solutions tailored to industries' needs. Moreover, by involving all stakeholders up front, CSI helps avoid challenges in court, ultimately paving the way for faster, cheaper results.

In addition to the metal finishers, CSI is working with five other industries in testing industry-based approaches. These industries include automotive, computers and electronics, iron and steel, printing, and oil refining. For more information on the metal finishing agreement contact Linda Darveau, EPA, at 617.565.4993.

## ALL ABOUT THE NEEATEAM

Are you a printer? metal plater or finisher? wood coater? Do you work in or run an auto body or repair shop? Do you work for a city, town or school? Have questions about preventing pollution & meeting your environmental responsibilities? Call the New England Environmental Assistance Team (NEEATeam). The Team is providing these industries and municipalities with information on regulatory requirements, pollution prevention opportunities and current EPA Region I, New England issues. The phone call is free. Services are free. And confidential. We're at 1.800.90NEEAT (1.800.906.3328). Or refer to the back page of this bulletin for the Team roster, direct telephone and fax numbers, along with e-mail addresses.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY 10

#### **Compliance Assistance Workshop for the Chemical Industry**

Westford Regency Inn  
Conference Center  
Westford, Mass.

8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

For firms engaged in the wholesale distribution of acids, industrial and heavy chemicals, dyestuffs, industrial salts, rosin and turpentine, as well as firms that warehouse, store and refrigerate chemical products. This workshop will assist the chemical and allied products industries (SIC code 5169) to comply with new Toxics Release Inventory reporting requirements. The workshop also will include information on EPA's Region 1 Chemical Industry Audit project for SIC codes 2869 and 2899. Other topics include a description and benefits of self-audits. Free. Sponsored by EPA. To register or for more information call Lena Schaye, EPA's contractor, at 617.371.2444.

### FEBRUARY 17

#### **Compliance Assistance Workshop for the Chemical Industry**

Sheraton Tara Hotel  
Braintree, Mass.

See description for February 10.

### FEBRUARY 23

#### **Compliance Assistance Workshop for the Chemical Industry**

Sheraton Harborside Hotel  
Portsmouth, N.H.

See description for February 10.

### FEBRUARY 25

#### **Compliance Assistance Workshop for the Chemical Industry**

Sheraton Hartford Hotel  
Hartford, Conn.

See description for February 10.

### MARCH 28

#### **Vehicle Air-Conditioning Workshop and Technology Demonstration**

Mass. Bay Community College  
Wellesley, Mass.

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For technicians who work on A-C systems and those that are reluctant to perform A-C work due to confusing and conflicting information regarding refrigerants and equipment. This workshop will include an explanation of regulations, alternative refrigerants and retrofitting procedures. Vendors will showcase leak detection equipment, recovery/recycling equipment, air eradication and refrigerant identification tools. There will be opportunities to see

retrofitting procedures by major auto manufacturers. Sponsored by EPA and the Mobile Air Conditioning Society. To receive a registration packet call EPA's New England Environmental Assistance Team at 800.90NEEAT (800.906.3328).

### APRIL 6

#### **Innovative Wastewater Technologies Trade Show**

Worcester, Mass.

Call for location and times.

For engineers, public works officials, local planners and designers who are faced with remediating failed systems on severely constrained sites or with providing enhanced treatment. Manufacturers of innovative on-site wastewater treatment systems/components will present their technologies. For more information contact EPA's Center for Environmental Industry & Technology in New England at 800.575.CEIT (800.575.2348).

### APRIL 8

#### **Innovative Wastewater Technologies Trade Show**

Nashua, N.H.

Call for location and times.

See description for April 6.

## **EPA AND OSHA ISSUE JOINT SAFETY ALERT**

EPA and OSHA released a joint safety alert on October 20 to warn many industries, including power generation facilities, chemical plants, refineries, petrochemical plants and others, about problems with certain types of check and butterfly valves. Some types of these valves can undergo shaft-disk separation blow-out, causing toxic and/or flammable gas releases, fires and vapor cloud explosions. Such failures can occur even when the valves are operated within their design limits of pressure and temperature. In a 1997 accident, several workers sustained minor injuries and millions of dollars worth of equipment was damaged when a shaft blow-out occurred in these types of valves. The valve's failure caused the rapid release of large amounts of hydrocarbon gases, which subsequently ignited, resulting in a large vapor cloud explosion and fire. Most modern valve designs incorporate features that reduce or eliminate the possibility of shaft blow-out. However, older design check and butterfly valves with external appendages such as pneumatic-cylinders, counterweights, manual operators or dashpots may be subject to this hazard. Facilities should review their process systems to determine if they have valves installed that may be subject to this hazard. For more information, visit the EPA Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office home page at <http://www.epa.gov/swercepp/> or contact the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know hotline at 800.424.9346 or 703.412.9810.

## MEET OUR NEW *PARTNERS FOR CHANGE*

EPA's New England regional office has 18 new participants in the agency's *Partners for Change* program. The program rewards New England businesses and municipalities for implementing responsible environmental practices. Meet our new 1997 *Partners*:

### Maine Partners

OrthoCraft  
Machias

### Massachusetts Partners

American Saw & Manufacturing Co.  
East Longmeadow

Board of Health  
Burlington

ESP Lock Products Inc.  
Leominster

Fit To Print Advertising  
Weymouth

GTE Government Systems  
Photography Laboratory  
Needham

Martin's Farm Recycling  
Greenfield

Maxwell Products Corp.  
Boston

The Robbins Company  
Attleboro

Storey Communications Inc.  
Distribution Center  
North Adams

### Massachusetts Partners - continued

Watch All  
Weymouth

### New Hampshire Partners

Town of Newport  
Wastewater Treatment Facility  
Newport

Vectron Technologies, Inc.  
Hudson

### Rhode Island Partners

Copperweld Metallon Division  
Pawtucket

Town of Narragansett  
Engineering Department  
Narragansett

S & A Paramount Printing Co.  
Lincoln

### Vermont Partners

C & S Wholesale Grocers, Inc.  
Brattleboro

The Stratton Corporation  
The Stratton Mountain Resort  
Stratton Mountain

A directory of all of our 1997 *Partners*, along with a description of their projects, will be available in late January.

*Partners for Change* is open to any business, municipality or organized group in New England. To be recognized as a partner, a facility must implement a project or activity that results in a long-term environmentally beneficial change to its daily operations. Such efforts can include waste reduction practices, recycling programs or other efforts that help green the work place. In return for joining the program, *Partners* receive a certificate and window decal, are featured in a *Partners-to-Partners* directory, publicity from EPA and the right to market themselves as a *Partner for Change*.

To receive a copy of the 1997 *Partners-to-Partners Directory*, an application or more information about the program call 800.906.3328.

### SIGN ON TO STARTRACK

EPA's New England regional office is looking for companies to participate in its StarTrack program. Under StarTrack, a company voluntarily assesses its environmental management system and compliance performance, and has its performance certified by a third party. In return EPA offers limited enforcement amnesty, no routine inspections, simplified reporting, and expedited permitting. To request an application or more information please call Marge Miranda, EPA, at 617.565.1002.

### EPA Seeks Brownfields Proposals

EPA is seeking proposals for its Brownfields economic redevelopment pilot program. The Brownfields pilots are each funded up to \$200,000 over two years. These funds are used to bring together community groups, investors, lenders, developers and other affected parties to address the issue of cleaning up sites contaminated with hazardous substances and returning them to productive use. EPA expects to select approximately 100 Brownfields pilots nationwide in 1998. The deadline for applications is March 23. Program criteria can be found in the application booklet, *The Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative: Proposal Guidelines for Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots*. Copies of the application package and the solicitation notice can be obtained by calling the RCRA/Superfund Hotline at 800.424.9346 or 703.412.9810. Information can also be obtained through the Internet at: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>.

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To be added to the *P2 & the Bottom Line* mailing list or to notify us of a change of address please contact the NEEATeam at the phone/fax numbers listed above or send an e-mail message to:

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*Pollution Prevention & the Bottom Line* is now available on the 'net. The address is <http://www.epa.gov/region01/steward/neeat/>



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